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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

ADMINISTRATION SAYS 463 PARENTS MAY HAVE BEEN DEPORTED WITHOUT CHILDREN. The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Miroff, 15.68M) reports that in a progress report to US District Judge Dana Sabraw Monday, the Administration said that "463 parents of migrant children are no longer present in the United States, indicating that the number of mothers and fathers potentially deported without their children during the 'zero tolerance' border crackdown could be far larger than previously acknowledged." The report "cautioned the 463 cases are 'under review,' meaning the filing was not a definitive tally of all migrant parents who have been deported while their children remain in U.S. government shelters." The filing

"included no additional explanation, but the government is scheduled to brief the court Tuesday afternoon about its progress in the reunification effort, and will probably provide more details about the whereabouts of the 463 parents."

[CNN](#) (7/23, Kopan, 82.6M) reports, "The government has maintained that any parent deported without their child had the opportunity to bring their kid with them, but willingly left without them," but "attorneys and immigrant advocates have questioned whether the parents fully understood to what they were agreeing." CNN adds, "There are 1,634 out of 2,551 separated children who have been potentially cleared for reunification," and "another 194 are either ineligible or declined reunification, 463 are not believed to be in the country and another 260 are being reviewed."

The [AP](#) (7/23, Spagat) reports, "The Trump administration said Monday that nearly 1,200 family reunifications have occurred for children 5 and older who were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border, still leaving hundreds to go before this week's court-imposed deadline." According to the AP, "There have been 1,187 reunifications 'or other appropriate discharges' by the Health and Human Services Department's Office of Refugee Resettlement, which took custody of the children, the Justice Department said in a court filing." The AP adds, "More than 1,600 adults were believed eligible for reunification, including 217 who have been released by immigration authorities into the United States, according to the filing. More than 500 were vetted and awaiting transportation."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/23, Dinan, 460K) reports, "The government is making major strides toward reuniting immigrant parents with children who were separated from them after they illegally crossed the border, the government said in a new court filing Monday evening that says some 879 parents are now back together with their children." The Times adds, "The government partially met a July 10 deadline for reuniting dozens of the youngest children, those under age 5, with their parents," but "reuniting the much bigger group of children ages 5 to 17 has been a tougher lift."

Sabraw Acting As Enforcer, Motivator To Ensure Compliance With His Order. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Gershman, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports on US District Judge Dana Sabraw, who last month ordered the Administration to end the practice of separating families entering the US illegally. The Journal says that as the July 26 deadline to reunite the families approaches, Sabraw has assumed multiple roles including overseer and motivator to ensure his order is fulfilled.

DHS News:

USCIS, ICE STEPPING UP INVESTIGATION OF DENATURALIZATION CASES. The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Mazzei, 19.33M) cites "several denaturalization actions pending across the country that suggest more aggressive immigration enforcement from the Trump administration, even for the most protected class of legal immigrants: naturalized citizens." USCIS "is opening a new office to investigate thousands of potential denaturalization cases, even as it approves more new citizenship applications than before." The agency "also intends to refer more cases for possible deportation, and to give citizenship adjudicating officers more discretion to deny applications they consider ineligible or incomplete." In addition, ICE "has requested \$207.6 million to hire an additional 300 agents to investigate more cases, including marriage, visa, residency and citizenship fraud." The Times says the "renewed focus on denaturalization" has "deeply unsettled many immigrants who had long believed that a United States passport ward off a lifetime of anxiety over possible deportation."

DAVIDSON: CBP REMAINS BELOW AUTHORIZED STAFFING LEVELS. In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Davidson, 15.68M), Joe Davidson writes, "Customs and Border Protection (CBP) remains below authorized levels despite increasing the job applications received, cutting the time to hire and boosting the percentage of applicants employed." According to Davidson, "At the end of fiscal 2017, CBP was more than 1,100 officers short, according to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, which did not include ICE." Davidson adds, "A long hiring process, high attrition and competition from other agencies are among the reasons." Davidson writes, "In a letter to GAO included in the report, Jim H. Crumacker, a DHS director, said the agency 'is constantly working to strengthen its hiring capabilities to secure staffing for critical frontline operations.'" A CBP statement to the Federal Insider on Friday "said the agency has increased personnel staff and contractors by more than 25 percent in the past year." CBP "agreed with GAO's recommendation to analyze why officers leave and use that information to improve retention."

Border Wall:

ENVIRONMENTAL, RIGHTS GROUPS SEEK MORE PUBLIC COMMENT TIME ON BORDER WALL. The [Texas Observer](#) (7/23, Reel) reports, "More than 40 conservation and human rights groups are calling for increased public participation as the Trump administration moves forward with its plan to build 33 miles of border wall in the Rio Grande Valley." According to the Observer, "In a letter sent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Monday, the groups called on the agency to extend a public comment period by 60 days and hold at least three public forums in the Rio Grande Valley."

CBP “should send notice to all nearby residents, including letters in Spanish to native speakers, and publish the information in local media and the Federal Register, they said.” The Observer adds, “Environmental advocates fear the new sections of wall will further degrade the natural landscape, interfere with efforts to conserve threatened and endangered species, worsen flooding and weaken the region’s ecotourism economy.”

The [Bryan College Station \(TX\) Eagle](#) (7/23, Aguilar, 63K) reports that the groups are “arguing that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security isn’t acting in good faith.” According to the Eagle, “The allegations come as the Trump administration is moving ahead with plans to build at least 33 miles of wall or other barriers in the Rio Grande Valley. ‘[Custom and Border Patrol’s] 30-day comment period, without even a single public meeting, strongly suggests a lack of sincere interest in obtaining thoughtful comments and broad engagement with the diverse constituencies affected by border barrier construction,’ the coalition of organizations wrote in a letter dated Monday to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan and other federal officials.” The Eagle adds, “The government is also side-stepping regulations mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act and only reaching out to certain stakeholders, according to Laiken Jordahl, the Center for Biological Diversity’s border campaign leader.”

Border Security:

HUMAN SMUGGLERS USING SOPHISTICATED METHODS ON NORTHERN BORDER. The [AP](#) (7/24, Ring) reports from Derby Line, VT, “While the Trump administration fortifies the southern border, there’s growing concern over the number of foreigners entering the country illegally across the porous northern border with Canada.” According to the AP, “People crossing the border between Vermont and Quebec have paid smugglers up to \$4,000, usually payable when the immigrants reach their U.S. destination, according to officials and court documents.” The AP adds, “While the number of arrests is tiny compared with the southern border, the human smuggling is just as sophisticated. ‘They are very well organized. They have scouted the area. They have scouted us,’ said U.S. Border Patrol Agent Richard Ross. ‘Basically, we are not dealing with the JV team; this is the varsity.’” The AP notes, “Driving the increase here, officials say, is the ease of entry into Canada, where visas are no longer required for Mexicans, and a border that receives less scrutiny and resources than the southern border, where thousands fleeing violence in Central America are being detained.”

BORDER PATROL ARRESTS THREE MS-13 MEMBERS OVER THE WEEKEND. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (7/23, Chavey, 1.59M) reports that US Customs and Border Protection said three MS-13 members “were arrested near the border over the weekend.” On Friday, Border Patrol agents “assigned to the Weslaco station made an arrest near Hidalgo of a Salvadoran man whose records showed he was a member of the gang, the agency said in a news release,” and “the next day, another Salvadoran was arrested, this time near Granjeno by McAllen agents. The man and his minor daughter had illegally entered the country, according to the agency.” It was later determined that he was also an MS-13 member. The Express-News adds, “Saturday afternoon, Rio Grande City agents arrested a third Salvadoran national whose records showed membership to MS-13, the agency said. ‘The Rio Grande Valley continues to encounter instances where criminal aliens are attempting to circumvent the system,’ Chief Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla, Jr. said in a prepared statement.”

IMMIGRANTS INJURED AFTER TRUCK PURSUED BY BORDER PATROL AGENT ROLLS IN NEW MEXICO. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports from Deming, NM, “Border Patrol officials say multiple people have been injured after a truck loaded with immigrants rolled over in southern New Mexico.” Officials “say 19 people were in a vehicle that had stolen license plates and tried to evade authorities south of Deming on Highway 9 early Monday.” The truck “was being pursued by a Border Patrol agent who had his vehicle’s lights and siren on,” and authorities said “the truck reversed direction and tried to reach the Mexican border about 30 miles away at a high speed when the driver lost control.”

Aviation Security:

TSA ROLLING OUT NEW 3-D SCANNERS. [CBS News](#) (7/23, 6.78M) reports that the Transportation Security Administration “is launching new technology that could change the way bags are scanned at airports across the country,” and “the goal is to replace aging X-ray scanners with new 3-D carry-on bag scanners that use the same technology as CT scans.” The TSA “believes they will spot explosives older machines could miss.” According to CBS News, “The brand-new Analogic 3-D CT scanner can see through just about anything in a carry-on bag to spot a potential threat,” and the TSA “is rolling it out at a checkpoint at the American Airlines terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City.” [Government Technology](#) (7/24, 3K) also reports.

TWO CHINESE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS FINED FOR TRYING TO SMUGGLE TURTLES FROM US. The [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (7/23, 76K) reports from Los Angeles, “Two flight attendants for a Chinese airline were fined Monday and ordered to leave the United States within 72 hours for attempting to smuggle dozens of spotted and box turtles in carry-on

bags from Los Angeles to China.” According to the Star-News, “Chinese nationals Huaqian Qu, 41, and Renfeng Gao, 31, pleaded guilty last month” in Los Angeles “to a federal conspiracy charge,” and US District Judge S. James Otero “ordered that both defendants pay \$5,500 each to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before returning to their native China within three days.” Qu and Gao were arrested at Los Angeles International Airport after “a random X-ray luggage check conducted by the Transportation Security Administration detected ‘unusual round objects’ in Qu’s carry-on bags during a routine inspection, according to an affidavit filed in the case.”

Immigration Policy:

JUDGE ALLOWS LAWSUIT OVER IMMIGRANT PROTECTIONS TO PROCEED. The [AP](#) (7/23, Richer) reports from Boston that US District Judge Denise Casper on Monday “denied the Trump administration’s bid to throw out a lawsuit that alleges its decision to end special protections shielding Haitian, Salvadoran and Honduran immigrants from deportation was racially motivated.” Judge Casper’s ruling “means the case that seeks to block the administration from terminating temporary protected status for thousands of immigrants from those three countries can move forward.” Judge Casper “also rejected the administration’s request to remove Republican President Donald Trump as a defendant in the case. ‘This represents an extremely favorable outcome for the Honduran, Haitian and Salvadoran immigrants who have felt completely blindsided by the federal government’s refusal to maintain this humanitarian protection program and who are firmly convinced that racism and discrimination were at the heart of the decision to terminate TPS,’ said Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal,” the executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice, which filed the lawsuit in February.

[Reuters](#) (7/23, Raymond) reports that Judge Casper “said the lawsuit’s allegations about ‘statements of animus’ by officials including President Donald Trump coupled with claims about a shift in policy ‘allege plausibly that a discriminatory purpose was a motivating factor in a decision.’” The lawsuit “cited statements it said showed Trump’s ‘dislike and disregard for Latino and black immigrants.’ ‘Plaintiffs have successfully made out their prima facie case,’ Casper wrote.” The Justice Department “had argued that the courts lack jurisdiction to review the decisions at issue.”

FORMER DIPLOMATS CAUTION POMPEO AGAINST ELIMINATING REFUGEE BUREAU. [Reuters](#) (7/23, Wroughton) reports 32 “prominent” former diplomats and representatives from 11 aid groups urged Secretary of State Pompeo in a letter Monday not to eliminate the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration office, “warning that the move would be ‘an error of grave proportion.’” The signatories wrote, “We are convinced that the elimination of PRM’s assistance functions would have profound and negative implications for the Secretary of State’s capacity to influence policy issues of key concern to the United States.” On condition of anonymity, one former US official “said the possibility of the bureau being cut was ‘profoundly disheartening.’”

[Politico](#) (7/23, Martinez, Toosi, 3.51M) reports “one former US official who signed the letter – but asked not to be identified by name – said Pompeo was moving toward a decision soon about the bureau’s future, revisiting an apparent decision made by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to keep the bureau.” The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ORLANDO PROHIBITS MUNICIPAL WORKERS ASKING ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports from Orlando, FL, “Municipal workers, including police officers, in one Florida city won’t be able to ask about someone’s immigration status under a new policy.” The Orlando City Council on Monday “unanimously approved the resolution known as the Trust Act.” According to the AP, “A coalition of immigration and civil rights groups that advocated for the resolution says Orlando is the first city in the South to adopt such a resolution,” and “other U.S. cities that have passed similar measures are Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston.”

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (7/23, Gillespie, 593K) reports, “Throngs flooded a City Council meeting, with many choosing to testify to the council, and dozens more spilling into the lobby of City Hall. After the vote, a roaring applause echoed throughout the building.” The vote “solidified a city policy and pertains to anyone reporting a crime or who witnesses criminal activity as well as persons pulled over for non-criminal traffic violations.” The resolution “was backed by more than three dozen social-justice and immigration organizations, including the Florida Farmworkers Association, the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association and Mi Familia Vota.” Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said, “If you simply report crime or you have a traffic stop, you will not be led to deportation. The Orlando Police Department is not in the business of immigration enforcement...we’re not protecting people that are committing crimes, but we’re not looking for people based on immigration status.”

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS SLAM ICE OVER PHONE CALL FEES. [BuzzFeed](#) (7/23, Sacks, 4.45M) reports, “After being separated from their children at the border and detained in facilities scattered across the US, some migrant parents have to pay steep fees to speak with their children, a policy that a group of Democratic lawmakers have called ‘shameless’ and ‘morally reprehensible.’” BuzzFeed adds, “In a letter sent to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(ICE) obtained by BuzzFeed News, about 150 Democratic members of Congress argued that the practice of charging 'exorbitant' prices to place phone calls from immigrant detention violates ICE's national standards." Detained immigrants "are able to call specific lawyers and government help lines for free, according to the agency's telephone access standards," and "it also states that facilities should enable detainees to make direct or free calls to 'immediate family or others for detainees in personal and family emergencies' and that they should have 'equitable access to reasonably priced telephone services' – which the letter from Congress points out."

[The Hill](#) (7/23, Wise, 2.71M) reports, "When contacted by The Hill, the agency responded by saying 'ICE is committed to connecting family members as quickly as possible after separation so that parents know the location of their children and have regular communication with them.' 'Calls between detained parents in ICE custody and their children are facilitated at no charge to detainees,' it added."

TEXAS BUSINESS COALITION OPPOSES STATE'S EFFORT TO END DACA PROGRAM. The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (7/23, Sechler, Subscription Publication, 324K) reports, "The state's Republican leadership is once again crossways with some prominent Texas business organizations and companies – this time over the fate of thousands of immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children." According to the AAS, "A pro-business coalition has weighed in to oppose a federal lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton" that "seeks to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, an initiative during President Barack Obama's administration known as DACA that has provided young immigrants with work permits and protection from deportation." The AAS adds, "Ending the program will cause 'irreparable harm to the Texas economy' and reduce economic activity in the state by more than \$6 billion annually, the business coalition said in a legal brief filed in federal court in Houston over the weekend." The brief "estimates the number of DACA recipients living in Texas...at more than 126,000."

MINNESOTA AG JOINS LAWSUIT TO PROTECT DACA. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports from St. Paul, MN, "Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson is joining a nationwide lawsuit seeking to protect a program for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children." President Trump "ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program earlier this year and called on Congress to replace it." Swanson "says she wants to 'stop the rug from being pulled out' from under 800,000 so-called Dreamers in the program." The AP reports "she filed a brief Monday in the federal case surrounding Trump's decision to rescind the program."

RETIRING REP. BARTON: BOTH SIDES TO BLAME FOR IMMIGRATION FAILURE. [CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (7/23, Cirillo, 117K) reports, "As prospects dim for Congress to pass immigration reform before the term's end, one retiring Republican involved in last month's compromise effort says his own party's hardliners are partly to blame. 'Political demagoguery on both sides' stamped out the recent push by House leadership to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, Texas Rep. Joe Barton said. 'I think Republicans who keep shouting "amnesty, amnesty" don't help the cause,' Barton said. 'And I think the Democrats being so insistent that they don't want to fund anything for border security or the wall – [both parties] just sit there and yell at each other.'" Barton "also said 'we're shooting ourselves in the foot as Republicans not to address the immigration issue' – but both parties' leadership, including President Donald Trump, 'don't appear to be willing to really sit down and come up with something that both sides win and both sides give a little bit.'"

NEW YORK NONPROFIT INUNDATED WITH MIGRANT CHILDREN. [CNBC](#) (7/23, 4.81M) reports from New York, "Officially classified as Unaccompanied Alien Children, thousands of the young migrants have been brought to New York City facilities of a company called Cayuga Centers," a nonprofit that "has received millions of dollars from the federal government during the past several years to place the children in foster care until they can rejoin parents or other relatives." According to CNBC, "This year, a new and different wave of undocumented migrant children have joined the federal caravans traveling to Cayuga Centers and other social services providers." They "were separated from their parents at the border by immigration agents for weeks as President Donald Trump's administration enforced a 'zero tolerance' policy against illegal immigration." These children "also went into foster care at Cayuga Centers, often with their parents having no idea that the youngsters had been transported thousands of miles away."

GILLIBRAND: "FIRST THING" DEMOCRAT MAJORITIES SHOULD DO IS ELIMINATE ICE. [Townhall](#) (7/23, Brown, 209K) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand told New York City's OZY Fest 2018 on Sunday that if Democrats take the majorities in the House and Senate, the "first thing" they should do is "get rid" of ICE. Gillibrand said, "So when we flip the House and flip the Senate, I think the first thing we should do is deal with the children who have been separated from their families at the border. I think we should get rid of ICE." She added that "we should separate out two missions, the anti-terrorism mission, the national security mission, and then on the other side make sure you're doing, looking at immigration as a humanitarian issue."

Immigration Enforcement:

CUOMO PARDONS SEVEN FACING DEPORTATION FOR PAST CONVICTIONS. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports, "Seven

people who faced deportation because of crimes committed years ago were pardoned Monday by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.” According to the AP, “The seven individuals include a mother of three, a grandfather and a man battling cancer,” and “all seven had minor, non-violent convictions that in some cases date back decades but their criminal records made them targets for deportation, Cuomo said.” Cuomo “said the pardons would make it harder for federal immigration officials to continue deportation proceedings. ‘We’re doing everything we can to frustrate their efforts,’ Cuomo said of the Trump administration and its aggressive immigration enforcement.”

The [New York Post](#) (7/23, Jaeger, 4.46M) reports, “It marks the third time Cuomo has used his power to grant clemency to immigrants facing ouster from the US – including last December, when he pardoned 18 individuals. ‘While President Trump engages in policies that rip children out of the arms of their mothers and tries to ramp up the deportation of New Yorkers to advance his political agenda of hate and division, we will protect our immigrant communities,’ Cuomo said in a statement.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/23, Foley, 4.32M) reports, “Frank Barker was cleaning up around his home in the Bronx when he got the call he’d been waiting for: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo planned to pardon him for 2009 convictions that had him at risk of deportation.” Barker, “who’s 52 and came to the U.S. from Barbados at age 9 as a legal resident, has spent nearly a decade in fear that he would be deported away from his work and family,” and “now he’s hoping his deportation order, based on crimes he’s now been pardoned for, will be tossed out.” The Post adds, “The government at times still can deport individuals, depending on their crime and whether they held legal status before the conviction,” and “Immigration and Customs Enforcement has continued to fight to deport some immigrants even after they were pardoned,” but “for many immigrants with criminal convictions, a pardon is their best shot at getting a chance to stay in the U.S.”

LAWSUIT CLAIMS COLORADO SHERIFF’S ICE POLICY VIOLATES IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS. The [AP](#) (7/23, Foody) reports from Denver, “Another Colorado sheriff’s office is being accused of violating immigrants’ rights by holding them in jail at the request of federal immigration authorities, according to a lawsuit filed Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado.” The complaint filed in Teller County District Court “argues that Sheriff Jason Mikesell ‘continues to hold prisoners in custody after state law requires their release.’” The ACLU “is suing on behalf of Leonardo Canseco Salinas, a 44-year-old man who was arrested July 14 on two misdemeanor charges.” According to the lawsuit, “Canseco wants to post his \$800 bond but unnamed jail officials said he still would not be released because of an ‘ICE hold.’” The lawsuit claims that “the office has no written policies for responding to immigration officials’ requests but regularly complies ‘even after the detainee has posted bond, completed his sentence, or otherwise resolved his criminal case.’”

GROUPS SUE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OVER ICE HOLDS. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports from Miami, “Immigrants and immigrant rights groups are challenging Miami-Dade County’s policy of holding immigrants for federal officials.” According to the AP, “WeCount, the Florida Immigrant Coalition and others filed a federal lawsuit Monday.” The lawsuit “challenges the county’s decision to comply with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests,” and “it claims the immigration detainers are unconstitutional, among other reasons, because people are being held without probable cause.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (7/23, Medina, Hanks, 1.07M) reports, “Two undocumented immigrants picked up in Miami-Dade for driving without valid licenses are suing the county for turning them over to immigration authorities under a 2017 policy switch to avoid a promised crackdown by President Donald Trump on so-called ‘sanctuary’ jurisdictions.” According to the Herald, “The immigrants in the new federal suit – which does not name them – joined immigration groups in a broad denunciation of the policy implemented by Mayor Carlos Gimenez days after Trump took office and ordered federal agencies to withhold funds from state and local governments that don’t cooperate with immigration authorities.” Miami-Dade “had been considered a ‘sanctuary’ jurisdiction for immigration offenders under the Obama administration because the county’s policy was to decline detention requests from Washington,” and “the new lawsuit by co-plaintiffs We Count! and the Florida Immigrant Coalition joins a nationwide legal challenge of the federal detainer policy, while seeking to deflate the Gimenez administration’s argument that the extended detentions bolster public safety.”

AP EXAMINES EFFECT ON FAMILY OF MOTHER’S DEPORTATION. The [AP](#) (7/23, Sedensky) reports that Letty Stegall, “a woman who married an American and gave birth to an American and who came to think of herself as American, too, is now deported to her native Mexico.” According to the AP, “As the United States takes a harder line on immigration, thousands who called the country home are being forced to go,” and “often, they leave behind spouses and children with American citizenship and must figure out how to go on with families fractured apart.” The AP adds, “Studies have found an estimated 8 million to 9 million Americans – the majority of them children – live with at least one relative who is in the country illegally, and so each action to deport an immigrant is just as likely to entangle a citizen or legal U.S. resident.” Stegall’s deportation “means she could be banned from the U.S. for a decade,” and “she prays paperwork seeking to validate her return through her marriage could wind through the system within two years, but there is no guarantee.”

PROSECUTORS USE WRONG STATUTE, WHICH MAY ALLOW ICE ESCAPEE TO WALK FREE. The [New York Post](#) (7/23, Saul, Sheehy, 4.46M) reports, “Brooklyn prosecutors used the wrong statute to charge a violent immigrant who humiliated three ICE agents by escaping custody at Kennedy Airport – and now the ex-con may not have to spend a day in jail for his criminal exploits, The Post has learned.” According to the Post, “Ex-con Mohamadou Mbacke was being deported back to his native Senegal on March 27 when he infamously gave his ICE handlers the slip at JFK.” Surveillance video “caught the uncuffed criminal scampering past shops and around different floors before ducking out of employee-only doors to a yellow cab and freedom.” Mbacke, “who is in his early 30s, remained on the lam for three days before he was nabbed in a Starbucks in Chicago,” and “he was brought back to New York City and charged with a misdemeanor, convicted and faced spending up to a year behind bars before being deported,” but “the statute under which he was charged only applies to escapees involved in deportation proceedings before mid-1997 – and Mbacke’s expulsion case began 16 years later, in 2015, Judge Sanket Bulsara wrote.”

Criminal Investigations:

US BREAKS UP FAKE IRS PHONE SCAM OPERATION. The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Hauser, 19.33M) reports, “The fraudulent calls came suddenly,” and “a person posing as an Internal Revenue Service or immigration official was on the phone, threatening Americans with arrest, deportation or other penalties if they did not immediately pay their debts with prepaid cards or wire transfers.” According to the Times, “Thousands of people in the United States complied with the demands to pay between 2012 and 2016, the Department of Justice said,” but “Justice Department officials say they have broken up what appeared to be the nation’s first large-scale, multinational operation that bilked Americans of ‘hundreds of millions of dollars’ over four years, using call centers based in India to route the money to conspirators in the United States.” In an announcement on Friday, the department “said 21 people living in eight states – Illinois, Arizona, Florida, California, Alabama, Florida, New Jersey and Texas – were sentenced last week in Houston to prison for up to 20 years for their role in the scheme.” The investigation “took years of work by Justice Department, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Treasury Department officials, the statement said.”

VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING HAITIAN CHILDREN. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (7/23, Marusak, 524K) reports, “A Virginia man was sentenced to 23 years in prison Monday for traveling to Haiti to sexually prey on children in remote villages, prosecutors said.” James Daniel Arbaugh, 40, of Stuarts Draft, VA “pleaded guilty in federal court Feb. 6 to one count of traveling in foreign commerce to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a person under the age of 18, according to a news release Monday night by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.” According to the Observer, “Court records show Arbaugh traveled to remote villages as a Mennonite missionary to ‘befriend and groom children,’ according to ICE’s news release.” Arbaugh “has lived in Haiti for about 15 years, regularly traveling back to the United States, according to court documents cited by ICE in its announcement of Arbaugh’s sentencing.”

Secret Service:

SECRET SERVICE WARNS OF SKIMMING THIEVES AT ATMS, GAS PUMPS. The [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (7/23, Tinsley, 456K) reports, “Thieves are busy installing credit card skimmers at gas pumps or ATMs to capture information from consumers’ credit and debit cards,” and “police in Haltom City are looking for a man they believe put a skimmer on an ATM inside a 7-Eleven Convenience Store on Airport Freeway. ‘Please be vigilant when using your card, even at trusted locations,’ Haltom City Police wrote Tuesday on Facebook, noting that the skimming device at this ATM has been removed. ‘If something seems wrong, let someone know.’” According to the Star-Telegram, “This is the latest warning from local, state and federal officials drawing attention to the devices that can capture between 30 and 100 card images a day, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores.” The Star-Telegram adds, “Even the U.S. Secret Service weighed in on skimmers this month. ‘Credit card fraud is a federal offense, carrying stiff penalties including heavy fines and lengthy prison sentences,’ according to a Secret Service statement.”

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: HONOR SECRET SERVICE’S SACRIFICES. The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/22, Examiner, 340K) editorialized, “Throughout President Trump’s trip across Europe this month, the U.S. Secret Service kept him and his team secure in several foreign cities and countries,” and “from Brussels to London, and from rural England and Scotland to Helsinki, hundreds of special agents and officers ensured the president could do his job.” According the Examiner, “One of them, 42-year-old Secret Service special agent Nole Remagen, died on duty.” The Examiner adds, “Assigned to national security adviser John Bolton’s protective detail, Remagen suffered a stroke last weekend while standing post.” The Examiner writes, “This 19-year Secret Service veteran deserves remembrance, not simply for his ultimate sacrifice, but also for his service and that of his family.” The Examiner adds, “Yet the Secret Service cannot stop to mourn.” Reform “is underway, but the agency still lacks sufficient personnel to fulfill all its duties,” and “that’s partly because there are unnecessary security details, and also because there are many different threats to cover.” The Examiner concludes, “We should remember Remagen for himself and for what he represents.”

Emergency Response:

FEMA OFFICIALS EMPHASIZING ROLE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS CAN PLAY IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

The [National Journal](#) (7/23, McBride, Subscription Publication, 35K) reports some high-ranking FEMA officials have recently been emphasizing the role that private contractors can play in preparing for disasters. In April, for example, Administrator Long gave congressional testimony that called for setting up more pre-disaster event agreements with such contractors. The Journal highlights after Hurricane Katrina, Congress required FEMA to develop a “contracting strategy that maximizes the use of advance contracts to the extent practical and cost-effective.” However, the agency’s own after-action report on the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season shows “FEMA encountered many of the same shortages after Hurricane Maria as it did after Katrina.”

HUNDREDS OF DISPLACED LOUISIANA FAMILIES ALLOWED MORE TIME IN FEMA MOBILE HOMES. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards has announced that state residents who began living in FEMA mobile homes after they were displaced by August 2016 flooding can continue to do so until January 15. The approximately 600 families still left in those homes had been scheduled to depart next month, but Edwards said FEMA officials have approved his request that they be allowed to stay longer. The agency, adds the AP, has indicated there will not be another extension granted to those families.

HEAT COMPLICATES EFFORT TO CONTAIN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES AS STORM POSES NORTHEAST FLOOD THREAT. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/23, lead story, 1:35, Glor, 5.61M) led its Monday edition with coverage of “extreme, potentially dangerous weather” in the West and the East. Heat in the former region has been “making the battle against California wildfires all the more difficult.” Recent flooding in Pennsylvania, meanwhile, was triggered by a storm that could bring heavy rainfall to other parts of the “Northeast through mid-week or even the end of the week.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, story 4, 1:20, Muir, 8.39M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/23, story 4, 1:15, Holt, 7.55M) aired similar reports.

Coast Guard:

DUCK BOAT RAISED FROM MISSOURI LAKE AS INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. In continuing coverage of the duck boat accident on a Missouri lake that left 17 people dead, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/23, story 5, 1:45, Holt, 7.55M) reported authorities raised the duck boat from the water on Monday. NBC reported inspector Steven Paul said his inspection revealed questions about the boat’s design from both a sea worthiness standpoint and whether passengers could evacuate in an emergency. Paul said, “There is escape from the back. If you can imagine being in a sinking ship with one exit, it would be devastating.” The [Associated Press](#) (7/23) reports the National Transportation Safety Board and the US Coast Guard will take possession of the boat. US Coast Guard Capt. Scott Stoermer said the USCG did not raise the boat until Monday because it needed to bring in the equipment required to raise the boat.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, story 5, 2:00, Muir, 8.39M) reported that unused life jackets could be seen “hanging from the top canopy” as the vessel was raised, explaining that survivor Tia Coleman said the captain of the boat told the passengers that they would not need the life jackets. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/23, story 7, 1:50, Glor, 5.61M) also reported on its nightly broadcast.

The [AP](#) (7/23, Salter, Hollingsworth) reports that the probe “will look at whether operators violated Coast Guard rules by venturing onto a Missouri lake as thunderstorms rolled in, a Coast Guard official said Monday.” Coast Guard Lt. Tasha Sadowicz of the agency’s St. Louis office “said the boat that capsized and sank was known as ‘Stretch Duck 07,’” and “like all 22 duck boats in operation in Branson, it was required to undergo annual inspections.” The most recent “was in February,” but Sadowicz “said the Coast Guard’s ‘certificate of inspection’ placed limits on when the boats can enter the water based on wind speed and ‘sea state,’ which refers to the height of waves.” Sadowicz “did not have information on Stretch Duck 07’s limits but said they will be a focal point of the investigation.”

[USA Today](#) (7/23, Schmitt, 11.4M) reports, “The boat will be taken to a ‘secure facility’ where the highway Patrol will transfer custody of the Duck to the NTSB.” The Coast Guard “was overseeing the operation but did not perform the actual salvage work.”

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (7/23, Robertson, 636K) reports NTSB investigators want to determine why the boat was allowed to go on the lake when the serious storm had been on radars for hours. [Reuters](#) (7/23, Staff) reports the captain of the boat survived the incident, but he has not yet been interviewed by the NTSB.

Additional coverage of the accident was provided by the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (7/23, Weinberg, 2.37M), [WIBC-FM Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (7/23, Davis, 7K), and [Forbes](#) (7/23, Goldstein, 10.34M).

LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE PROPOSED COAST GUARD FUNDING CUTS. The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (7/23, 62K) reports that Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) “is among a group of bipartisan lawmakers criticizing the Trump administration for a proposal to cut funding for the Coast Guard to pay for border security.” On Friday, Courtney “joined 15 members of the U.S. House in sending a letter to the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security expressing opposition to cuts to the Coast Guard budget to offset increased funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations along the southern border. ‘Our border is only as secure as its weakest link, and efforts to strengthen and secure our land border will be undermined by actions that make our 12,000-mile maritime border more permeable. The Coast Guard is the most effective resource we have to mitigate the threats of smugglers and illicit cargo coming to the United States by sea,’ the lawmakers wrote.”

Cyber News:

OFFICIALS: US MUST DO BETTER AT SHARING THREAT INFORMATION. The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Hawkins, 15.68M) reports, “Current and former policymakers admit it: The U.S. government needs do a better job sharing cyberthreat information with the private sector if it’s going to defeat increasingly complex cyberattacks from nation states.”

[CIO Dive](#) (7/23, Hickey) reports that according to IARPA Director Jason Matheny, cybersecurity defenders and hackers are in a machine learning arms race, with the advantage going to whoever has the most training data. CIO Dive says, “If big tech pooled all the data it had on cyberattacks, however, it would have a data set greater than that of any attacker’s. Despite the clear advantages of pooling resources and combining intel to fight threats, these practices lag.” DNI Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center Director Tonya Ugoretz is cited saying that industry, the government, and the American people must cooperate to counter the threat of malicious actors.

[Inside Cybersecurity](#) (7/23) reports similarly.

RUSSIA-BACKED HACKERS SAID TO HAVE PENETRATED US ENERGY NETWORKS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Smith, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that according to federal officials, hackers working on behalf of Russia conducted a giant, long-running, and likely ongoing campaign that placed them inside US utility control rooms, where they could have caused blackouts. The hackers gained entry into supposedly air-gapped networks with relative ease, through trusted key vendors.

[The Hill](#) (7/23, Samuels, 2.71M) reports, “The department did not disclose which companies were victimized by the hacks, but indicated there were hundreds affected by the breach.” According to The Hill, “Other companies reportedly may still be unaware they were part of the breach because the hackers may have broke in using employee credentials.”

[Reuters](#) (7/24, Staff) reports, “Hackers used conventional tools such as spear-phishing emails and watering-hole attacks that trick victims into entering their passwords and then gained access to corporate networks of suppliers, which allowed the hackers to steal credentials and gain access to utility networks, the report on.wsj.com/2LxBrTZ said.” Reuters adds, “DHS plans to conduct four briefings and is searching for evidence on the Russians attempting to automate their attacks, the report said.”

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES TACKLING CYBERSECURITY ISSUES. [Politico](#) (7/23, Starks, 3.51M) reports the House Homeland Security and Government Oversight committees will tackle cybersecurity issues in hearings and markup sessions for bills. The issues include election security and cybersecurity risk management.

[MeriTalk](#) (7/23) reports that support for the Secure Elections Act of 2018 “is growing in the Senate as four more legislators signed on as cosponsors late last week.” The bill “would streamline cybersecurity information-sharing between Federal intelligence agencies and state election agencies and protect against threats posed by foreign adversaries.”

CYBER WARFARE POLICY INCLUDED IN FINAL VERSION OF DEFENSE POLICY BILL. [The Hill](#) (7/23, Beavers, 2.71M) reports, “The final version of an annual defense policy bill would set new authorities for the Department of Defense to deter and respond to attacks in cyberspace, including establishing the first U.S. policy on cyber warfare.” According to The Hill, “Following House and Senate negotiations, a conference report on the Nation Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) released Monday says the United States should be able to use every option on the table, including offensive cyber capabilities. ‘[The NDAA] establishes a policy that the United States should employ all instruments of national power, including the use of offensive cyber capabilities, to deter if possible, and respond when necessary, to cyber attacks that target U.S. interests,’ the conference report reads.” The report “notes that the policy could be applied if the attack was to intentionally ‘cause casualties, significantly disrupt the normal functioning of our democratic society or government, threaten the Armed Forces or the critical infrastructure they rely upon, achieve an effect comparable to an armed attack, or imperil a U.S. vital interest.’”

NAKASONE CONFIRMS UNIT TO COUNTER RUSSIAN MEDDLING. [C4ISR & Networks](#) (7/23) has video of NSA Director Nakasone confirming reports that he has stood up a special unit tasked with countering Russian attempts to interfere with future US elections. The video shows Nakasone, at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado, saying he's "stood up a...Russia Small Group." He added, "It's in line really with what the intelligence community has been doing since 2016."

Nakasone Addresses Dual-Hat Role, Tech Company Reservations, Workforce Concerns. [Federal Computer Week](#) (7/23, Williams, 263K) reports that at the conference in Aspen, Nakasone also addressed his dual-hat role, "stressing that NSA and Cyber Command's partnership were what mattered most, not whether they shared a leader." In addition, he "addressed reservations tech companies have in working with DOD, namely Google's decision to pull out of its partnership for Project Maven – an artificial intelligence project – over ethics concerns." He stated, "I don't think that should mean that we should stop engaging. I think that the most important thing we need to do is engage." Meanwhile, in addressing workforce concerns, Nakasone said he "hopes to adopt a Silicon Valley-like ecosystem that encourages cyber workers to bounce from DOD to the intelligence community, to the private sector and back again."

BAHAR: GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR MUST PREPARE FOR DATA MANIPULATION ATTACKS. Michael Bahar writes in [The Hill](#) (7/23, Bahar, 2.71M) about whether the US government and private companies are prepared to deal with cyberattacks that "change or manipulate electronic information in order to compromise its accuracy or reliability." Bahar stresses that if hackers "can fake a phishing email, they can fake anything else." Bahar adds, "Being aware of, monitoring for and incorporating data manipulation attacks into Cyber Incident Response Plans can help substantially in prevention and recovery, as can training and greater information sharing."

IT LEADERS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CDM. [Federal Computer Week](#) (7/23, 263K) says that "challenges remain in terms of budgets and implementation" of CDM, but "now that the program is evolving from compliance to mitigation, many IT experts are cautiously optimistic that the government might finally be transforming its approach to cybersecurity." Cybersecurity leaders convened by FCW to discuss progress on CDM. FCW reports, "Participants said implementing CDM has been a challenge, and several expressed frustration with the standardized options they were given under Phases 1 and 2. They stressed the need for agencies to have more input into choosing vendors and products."

DEFENSE OFFICIAL OFFERS ELECTION SECURITY HELP. [Fifth Domain Cyber](#) (7/23, Lynch, Gould) reports that Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford has offered to help secure election systems, according to US Sen. Lindsey Graham. Graham is quoted saying, "I don't want to divulge what they are doing. ... My point is a whole-of-government approach would include [the Department of Defense] – which is a bit surprising to me."

FORMER WHITE HOUSE CYBER COORDINATOR TO SERVE AS NSA REPRESENTATIVE IN UK. [CNN International](#) (7/23, McLaughlin) reports that former White House cybersecurity coordinator Rob Joyce "has been tapped to serve as the National Security Agency's top representative in the United Kingdom." Joyce "will be responsible for the full breadth of NSA mission in and to the UK government," according to a former senior intelligence official. Sources said it is "the most important overseas post the NSA has" due to the agency's close relationship with GCHQ.

FBI PITTSBURGH WARNS OF RANSOMWARE SCAMS. The [Butler \(PA\) Eagle](#) (7/23, 53K) reports, "The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Pittsburgh office is warning residents of a recent spike in ransomware scams in the Greater Pittsburgh area." FBI officials "said people and businesses can protect themselves by keeping offline data backups of information." FBI acting special agent in charge Greg Nelson is quoted as saying, "The FBI doesn't support paying a ransom. The best way to protect yourself and your organization is to have a backup of your data, maintain it, and disconnect it from your computer." [WPXI-TV](#) Pittsburgh (7/23, 50K) reports similarly.

Terrorism Investigations:

SUSPECTED TEXAS BOMB MAKER WILL PURSUE INSANITY DEFENSE. The [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (7/23, Suy, 65K) reports Mark Avery Rudd, "a Beaumont man accused of making homemade bombs will appear in court next month for a competency hearing at which his attorney will pursue an insanity defense, according to court records." Rudd, 27, "was arrested in early February after federal investigators uncovered two suspected destructive devices in his Beaumont home, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement." FBI agents, "Beaumont police and fire officials blew up the two suspected explosive devices by digging a hole and detonating the materials underground."

AL-QAEDA OPERATIVE WHO PLOTTED SWEDISH CARTOONIST ASSASSINATION PLEADS GUILTY, SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS. [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/23, Roebuck, 551K) reports Ali Charaf Damache, "an Algerian-born al-Qaeda operative who recruited...Colleen 'Jihad Jane' LaRose and others in a 2009 plot to assassinate a Swedish cartoonist pleaded guilty Monday and agreed to a 15-year prison term." [Fox News](#) (7/23, Chamberlain, 16.38M) reports Damache is

“the first foreign-born terror suspect to be brought to the U.S. for trial under the Trump administration.” The FBI’s New York office assistant director in charge William Sweeney is quoted as saying, “Damache knowingly and willingly conspired with others to wage a violent jihad overseas, actively supporting the very ideals that allow terrorism to thrive worldwide.” The [AP](#) (7/23, Lauer) and the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (7/23, 434K) provide similar coverage.

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBER LAWYERS PLAN ARGUMENT FOR DEATH PENALTY SENTENCE APPEAL. The [Boston Globe](#) (7/23, Andersen, 945K) reports, “Lawyers for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev have flagged roughly 30 issues they plan to raise when he appeals his death sentence, according to a recent legal filing.” Additionally, Tsarnaev’s lawyers “requested that the Aug. 20 deadline for filing their highly anticipated brief be pushed back to Nov. 18, citing their ongoing analysis of some 10,000 pages of transcripts in the case.”

FORMER OBAMA OFFICIAL PRAISES TRUMP’S SUCCESS AGAINST ISIS. [Townhall](#) (7/23, O’Brien, 209K) reports that in an interview with The Hill TV, Jim Jones, a former national security adviser for President Barack Obama, gave President Trump “some kudos for his foreign policy.” Jones said, “The Trump administration has had some success in defeating ISIS, which I think is commendable.” Jones added that the Administration “has to be given credit for at least reversing the ISIS presence.” Jones also offered “some criticism of his old boss,” saying that Obama’s “red line” warning for Syria was a “mistake.”

COORDINATED ATTACK STOKES FEARS OF ISIS RESURGENCE IN IRAQ. The [Washington Times](#) (7/23, Muñoz, 460K) reports ISIS militants conducted a “brazen, coordinated daytime attack” Monday on “government facilities in Irbil, the capital of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.” The strike “was the group’s highest-profile attack against the city since its blistering military campaign seized territory across Syria and northern Iraq in 2014.” US military officials have characterized the recent “burst of Islamic State operations in sparsely populated Iraqi provinces as the last desperate operations” of the movement, but Monday’s attack “is stoking concerns that the threat posed by the Islamic State has not subsided but is rebuilding its resources in the months after Washington and Baghdad declared the group’s defeat last July.”

RESTAURANT: VIRAL STORY OF RECEIPT WITH “WE DON’T TIP TERRORIST” WAS FAKED. The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 15.68M) reports Saltgrass steakhouses, which “banned a customer after an employee’s story of a receipt” with “We don’t tip terrorist” written on went viral, said the “employee fabricated the entire story,” according to a statement by COO Terry Turney. He added, “Racism of any form is intolerable, and we will always act swiftly should it occur in any of our establishments. Falsely accusing someone of racism is equally disturbing.” However, “the company declined to explain what had caused it to issue the striking about-face or whether” the waiter in question, Khalil Cavit, had been fired, simply stating he is no longer with the company.

TERRORISM NOT RULED OUT IN TORONTO MASS SHOOTING. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/23, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 7.55M) reported that 15 people were shot in Toronto, and two of them were killed, including a 10-year-old girl, “when a gunman dressed in black suddenly began shooting on a busy street.” The shooter, who “died after a shootout with police,” has been identified as Faisal Hussain. US law enforcement sources tell NBC Hussain wasn’t on any watchlists. NBC (Gutierrez) added, “For a motive, investigators are not ruling out terrorism.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/23, story 10, 0:20, Glor, 5.61M) said “terrorism has not been ruled out.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, story 3, 2:15, Muir, 8.39M) reported that as investigators “are not ruling out terror.” Hussain’s family is saying that he “suffered from severe mental health issues.”

BRITISH OFFICIAL DROPS DEMAND TO US NOT TO SEE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST ISIS MILITANTS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 15.68M) reports British Home Secretary Sajid Javid “last month sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, stating that his government would drop a demand that two alleged Islamic State militants be spared the death penalty if convicted in a U.S. court, in an apparent bid to resolve a standoff between the countries over which one should take custody of the men.” After Javid’s letter triggered an “uproar” in Britain, “Prime Minister Theresa May, through a spokeswoman, said the government’s opposition to capital punishment remains unchanged.” According to the Post, “It is not clear what impact Javid’s letter to Sessions has had on Trump administration deliberations over how to handle the militants.” Career prosecutors believe “they can win at trial,” but “Sessions personally favors sending the men to Guantanamo.” The position of the State and Defense Departments, meanwhile, “has been that Britain, as the militants’ country of origin, should take them for prosecution.”

National Security News:

ANALYSIS: MARIA BUTINA LATEST IN LONG LINE OF RUSSIAN AGENTS TO “INFILTRATE” US UNIVERSITIES.

In a piece for [ProPublica](#) (7/23, Golden, 49K), Daniel Golden writes, “If the charges against Maria Butina are accurate, she’s only the latest in a long line of Russian agents to go undercover on US campuses.” Dating back “to the Soviet era, Russian spies have sought to take advantage of academia’s lax security, collaborative, global culture, and revolving door

with government. ... Although cyber-spying and hacking offer opportunities to glean secrets at less personal risk, the traditional strategies of human espionage persist, and sending a spy to school is prominent among them.” As an example, in 2013, “the FBI recorded two Russian spies under diplomatic cover, Igor Sporyshev and Victor Pobodnyy, discussing efforts to recruit several young women with ties to New York University. Both men specialized in economic espionage and were supposed to gather information on U.S. alternative energy initiatives, as well as on sanctions against Russia.”

Other DHS News:

LAS VEGAS SHOOTING VICTIMS DECRY MGM’S LAWSUIT. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, story 6, 1:35, Muir, 8.39M) reported, “Survivors of the Las Vegas massacre now speaking out, after they’re now being sued by the owner of the Mandalay Bay hotel. MGM, the company that owns the hotel, suing the victims and the families of the deceased.” MGM “says they’re not looking for money, but they want to sue to keep them from suing.” ABC (Carr) added, “Tonight, survivors of the Las Vegas massacre, the worst mass shooting in US history, calling MGM’s lawsuit outrageous.” MGM “owns Mandalay Bay, where Stephen Paddock carried out his deadly rampage, killing 58,” and the hotel is “attempting to use an obscure post-9/11 law for acts of terror that could shield them.” In a statement, MGM said, “‘We are not asking for money or attorney’s fees,’ but that they are seeking a preemptive ruling to not be held liable against people who may sue,” and victims are “vowing to fight this new legal attack.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/23, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 7.55M) reported, “Facing hundreds of civil lawsuits, MGM resorts, owner of the Mandalay Bay, has sued the victims back,” and on Monday, “at an emotional news conference, survivors and relatives of those who died expressed outrage.” MGM “says under federal law, it’s immune from financial liability because it relied on a security firm certified by the Department of Homeland Security, and the injuries resulted from an act of terrorism, though the federal government never declared it as such.” Victims “say MGM didn’t do enough to prevent the attack.”

GEO GROUP PAID BALLARD PARTNERS FOR LOBBYING. [CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (7/23, Ackley, 117K) reports, “The private prison company GEO Group paid a Trump-connected lobbying firm \$150,000 for seeking to influence the federal government during the second quarter of this year, according to a recent disclosure report to Congress.” According to CQ Roll Call, “The disclosure from Ballard Partners also says that the GEO Group doesn’t take a position ‘on immigration enforcement policies or detention policies,’ as such issues have generated widespread controversy in recent months,” and “that came amid fallout over a Trump administration policy to separate children from their parents who entered the country without legal documentation or were seeking asylum.” The GEO Group “manages detention facilities on behalf of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.”

BORDER PATROL AGENT FILMED QUESTIONING CITIZENSHIP OF BUS RIDERS IN NEW MEXICO. [Newsweek](#) (7/23, Fearnow, 2.18M) reports, “The woman who recorded a now-viral video of a Border Patrol agent questioning bus riders’ citizenship in New Mexico said the incident felt like ‘living in Nazi Germany.’” Los Angeles teacher Yolanda Varela Gonzalez “was on a bus ride between Los Angeles and El Paso, Texas, this week when the bus stopped at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection checkpoint in Deming, New Mexico,” and “her cellphone recording showed a Border Patrol agent walking down the aisle of the bus, peering into the bathroom and asking people for citizenship papers. ‘You a citizen? Are you a citizen? Great,’ the agent can be heard asking.” Newsweek adds, “In the video, Gonzalez verbally chastises the Border Patrol agent as he walks up and down the aisle looking for proof of citizenship from riders. ‘I understand you’re not allowed to ask for that within 100 miles of the border.’” Newsweek adds that “the checkpoint questioning by the federal employee is legal under an ‘external boundary’ regulation that skirts the Fourth Amendment’s constitutional protection of Americans from random and arbitrary stops and searches.”

PORTLAND MAYOR TELLS ICE OCCUPIERS TO DISBAND NOW. The [Oregonian](#) (7/23, 815K) reports, “Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler on Monday warned protesters camping at the Portland office of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to disband before they are removed by police.” According to the Oregonian, “During a press conference at City Hall, Wheeler, flanked by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, Chief Danielle Outlaw and Fire Marshal Nate Takara, said occupiers should ‘peacefully disengage.’” Wheeler “said officials will post a camp sweep notice Monday evening,” and “protesters will have until Tuesday to leave voluntarily, according a city notice.” The notice “states that protesters who remain may be face citation or arrest for trespassing, illegal camping and building structures on public rights of way.”

Portland Food Cart Shut Down After Alleged Harassment From Occupy ICE Protesters. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/23, Chandak, 420K) reports, “A Portland non-profit food cart was shut down after the owners faced alleged harassment from Occupy ICE protesters Friday.” The Happy Camper Food Cart, “founded by Scott and Julie Hakes in 2017, raised funds to help the homeless through the project Operation Off The Grid,” and “the stand was across the street from the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building, where protesters have held demonstrations since June. ‘Unfortunately over the last month, we have been threatened and verbally attacked for not backing the immigration agenda at the DHS location and wanting to stay neutral and serve all who are hungry,’ said the Happy Camper Food Cart

Facebook post on July 20.” According to the Caller, “It started when one of the protesters yelled at his daughter with a mega-horn because they thought the daughter was making fun of them.”

NADLER: DHS OFFICIALS SHOULD BE JAILED IN REUNIFICATION DEADLINE IS MISSED. [Breitbart](#) (7/23, Hanchett, 1.28M) reports, “On Monday’s broadcast of CNN’s ‘At This Hour,’ House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY) [said] that if the Trump administration misses the deadline to reunite children who were separated from their families at the border with their families, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, and acting ICE Director Ronald Vitiello should be put in jail.” According to Breitbart, “Nadler said, ‘(T)hey’re in effect kidnapping children. They made no arrangements or plans to return the kids to their parents. They had no real reason to do this.’” Nadler added, “If I were the judge, I would call the secretary of Homeland Security, the secretary of Health and Human Services, and the head of ICE, and I would put them in front of me. And I’d say, you will go to jail until the kids are reunited, in civil contempt. Because it’s the only way, apparently, to get them to obey the law.”

Global Media:

CANADIAN LEADERS GRAPPLING WITH IMMIGRATION. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/23, Wingrove, 4.46M) reports, “Justin Trudeau’s latest headache is unusual for a country bounded by three oceans and just one neighbor: the border.” Canada “has seen a steady flow of asylum seekers since Donald Trump’s election, with people who fear the U.S. will deport them or reject their bids for asylum crossing the 4,000-mile undefended border and filing a claim,” and “while the total numbers are relatively modest, the influx has strained resources and prompted calls for more funding.” The issue “has the Canadian prime minister caught between demands for tighter security and his own pledge of open arms.” According to Bloomberg News, “The controversy has ramped up in recent weeks, in part because of Ontario’s election of a conservative government led by populist Doug Ford.” Ford “and two other premiers have called on Trudeau to act, and a political sparring match is underway over what values are more Canadian: welcoming refugees, even those arriving illegally, or securing the border?”

Audit Criticizes Canada’s Treatment Of Detained Immigrants. The [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (7/23, 1.11M) reports, “A highly critical federal audit is fuelling calls for fundamental reforms to Canada’s border agency and the way it deals with detainees during investigations and immigration hearings.” According to the G&M, “The newly released audit of the Immigration and Refugee Board looks at hearings and decisions in randomly selected cases where immigration detention exceeded a minimum of 100 days.” The G&M adds, “While the external audit, commissioned by former IRB chairman Mario Dion, focuses on the Immigration Division of the board, it also shines a light on the role and behaviour of Canada Border Services Agency officers.” The audit “uncovered inaccurate statements made by CBSA officers involved in board hearings, immigration adjudicators deciding the fate of cases based on false information, and detainees left unrepresented and powerless at hearings.”

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).

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